

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A safety syringe and cap holding device comprising:

a syringe having a body portion and a needle assembly interconnected with the body portion, the needle assembly including a needle with an injection end and a hub, the hub including at least one recess disposed annularly about the hub;

a cover removably attached to the hub and covering the injection end of the needle, the cover including at least a pair of opposing protrusions for engagement with the at least one recess of the hub;

a cap holding device having a receptacle for receiving the cover;

means in the cap holding device for disengaging the cover from the hub to allow the syringe and needle assembly to be withdrawn from the cap holding device with the injection end of the needle uncovered while the cover remains in the cap holding device; and

a mechanical linkage system ~~means~~ in the cap holding device for selectively retaining or releasing the cover from engagement within the cap holding device.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~means for disengaging the cover comprises a~~ mechanical linkage system in the cap holding device ~~for moving~~ moves the at least pair of opposing protrusions out of engagement with the at least one recess for disengaging the cover from the hub.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mechanical linkage system comprises one or more hooks for engaging one or more handles on the cover for disengaging the at least pair of opposing protrusions away from the at least one recess to disengage the cover from the hub.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mechanical linkage system is actuated remotely from the cap holding device.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mechanical linkage system includes means for disengaging the cover comprises one or more solenoids in the cap holding device for moving one or more hooks for engaging one or more handles on the cover for disengaging the at least pair of opposing protrusions from the at least one recess to disengage the cover from the hub.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of solenoids are actuated remotely from the cap holding device.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mechanical linkage system ~~means for selectively retaining or releasing the cover~~ comprises one or more solenoids having one or more hooks for engaging and disengaging the cap in the cap holding device.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cap holding device comprises a weighted base.

Claims 13-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A safety syringe and cap holding device comprising:

a syringe having a body portion and a needle assembly interconnected with the body portion, the needle assembly including a needle with an injection end and a hub;

a cover removably attached to the hub and covering the injection end of the needle, the cover including one or more protrusions extending radially inward of the cover into engagement with the hub and one or more handles corresponding to the one or more internally facing protrusions;

a cap holding device having a receptacle for receiving the cover; and

means in the cap holding device for disengaging the cover from the hub and retaining the cover in the cap holding device to allow the syringe and needle assembly to be withdrawn from the cap holding device with the injection end of the needle uncovered while the cover remains in the cap holding device, the means for disengaging the cover comprising one or more hooks in the receptacle for engaging the one or more handles to move the one or more internally facing protrusions outwardly out of engagement with ~~from~~ the hub.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein each of the one or more handles is substantially oval and includes an interior opening.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the cover includes at least a pair of opposing handles.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the one or more hooks is sized to extend through the one or more handles.

26. (currently amended) A safety syringe and cap holding device comprising:

a syringe having a body portion and a needle assembly interconnected with the body portion, the needle assembly including a needle with an injection end and a hub;

a cover removable attached to the hub and covering the injection end of the needle;

a cap holding device comprising a housing having a receptacle for receiving the cover;

a mechanical linkage system means in the cap holding device for disengaging the cover from the hub and retaining the cover in the cap holding device to allow the syringe and needle assembly to be withdrawn from the cap holding device with the injection end of the needle uncovered while the cover remains in the cap holding device; and

an actuator positioned remotely from the housing for actuating the mechanical linkage system within the cap holding device.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the actuator is not integrally attached to the housing.